

**Good teachers
cost a lot,
but poor teachers
cost a lot more.**

F.O.N.T. Focus on New Teachers

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Teachers

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DID YOU KNOW?

- The FFT website can be accessed at www.farmingdaleteachers.org
- On the FFT website you can download vision and dental forms that you may need when making appointments over the holiday break.
- You can contact us through the site and let us know what you would like to see on the site to improve it.

WHAT HAS THE UNION EVER DONE FOR ME?

This is the question that billionaires like the Koch brothers would like you to ask yourself. Try to learn about some of the gains that the FFT has made and benefits won for members over the years. Your union and its members fought hard for them, but they can disappear quickly if your union's ability to effectively represent you is hindered or destroyed.

Many of the rights and benefits that you have now and do not want to lose are:

- The right to collectively bargain for terms and conditions of employment
- A defined work day and work year
- A defined pension system
- Salary schedules with defined wage increases
- Employer provided health care, dental and vision plans
- Paid vacations, holidays, sick days, family leaves, bereavement days, and personal days
- Health insurance after retirement
- Seniority protections
- Stipends for extra-curricular activities
- Right to representation at disciplinary hearings
- Anti-discrimination protections
- Grievance and arbitration procedures to protect against contractual rights violations
- Defense of tenure and due process rights

We Need You!

Keep our union strong! As untenured teachers, there are many union activities in which you can participate. Ask your Building Representatives or call the FFT office for more information. Just like going to a gym makes you stronger, actively participating in your union makes it stronger, too!





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*"Labor Unions are the leading force for
democratization and progress."
Noam Chomsky*

We're on the web:
[http://
www.farmingdaleteachers.org](http://www.farmingdaleteachers.org)

Teacher Discounts

- Staples:** Register for the Staples Teacher Rewards Program to get 5% back in rewards points and free shipping from Staples.com.
- Michaels:** Receive 15% off your entire purchase every day.
- Inkjet Willy:** Inkjet Willy is a popular website that helps you find the lowest prices on ink and toner. Educators save an extra 10% on orders of remanufactured cartridges by using the code WILLY10.
- Izzit.org:** Educators can receive one free educational video per year, no strings attached.

Classroom Observations

Whether it is an elementary classroom or a high school classroom, there are certain elements that administrators look for during teacher observations. Remember, each evaluator may emphasize different components, but these are some of the things that most administrators look for during their observations.

1. Is there an attractive and inviting classroom environment? Display student work. Be sure students are actively engaged in the lesson. Is there a good rapport between students and teacher?
2. Does the teacher clearly communicate target learning objectives by writing them on the board? Make connections to prior learning and give directions for tasks to be performed in a clear and concise manner.
3. Are students grouped appropriately? Are the needs of high, middle and low level achievers being met?
4. Maximize instructional time. Start class promptly and teach until the end of the class period.
5. Assess, adjust and reassess. Use formal and informal assessment techniques that refer back to the target learning objective.
6. Are lessons aligned with the NYS Standards?
7. Use open-ended questioning techniques and allow for multiple correct answers to a question. Scaffold your questions.
8. Use technology, visuals and hands-on activities to engage students. Let them explore the answers to problems on their own.
9. Allow your students to become independent learners. "Flip" your classroom. Let the students learn from one another.
10. Provide a summary activity for closure at the end of the lesson to review the target learning objectives and reinforce the lesson.

Administrators use their observations and evaluations to help teachers develop new skills to become the best teachers they can be. Remember, if you have any questions or concerns regarding an evaluation that you received from an administrator, please see your Building Representative and have him/her read over your evaluation. A statement that is misunderstood or interpreted improperly may become important at a later date. Use the help that is available to you.

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